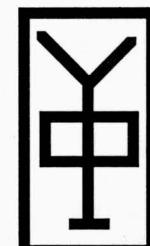


**OLD ARABIC SAYINGS,
SIMILES, AND METAPHORS**

من أقوال العرب وتشبيهاتهم الأدبية

Translated from the Arabic by

SAAD ELKHADEM



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PREFACE

Translating literary texts is not only an exacting task, but also a risky and thankless one. No matter how faithful a rendition a translator tries to create, he, or she, may be forced to make certain concessions in matters of phraseology, syntax, rhythm, or poetic diction, which, if not meticulously checked, may change the inherent meaning of the text significantly. Of all the literary genres, lyrical poetry (on account of its intricate rhythmical patterns and innumerable connotative implications) and epigrammatic statements (often due to their cryptic brevity and conflicting cultural associations) are undoubtedly the most demanding ones to translate. I have, therefore, paid particular attention to the different intrinsic and extrinsic features of these short texts, for they combine several lyrical qualities as well as many aphoristic elements.

However, in dealing with some ambiguous sayings and abstruse proverbs, I have permitted myself to make changes which seemed unavoidable in order to clarify the meaning of the text, or to increase its readability. Of course I am aware that during this purely subjective process I ran the risk of doing too much or too little. However, I also know that no reader who is in good command of both languages would be totally satisfied with this or with any other translation, and that he, or she, would always feel capable of producing another translation that would correspond more closely to his or her own understanding of the original text. Some, I am sure, would be encouraged--when they see how the two texts, the Arabic and the English, face one another on the same page, and even on the same line--to compare, to criticize, and to modify what is in front of them. All of this is welcome, of course, because I have made this effort in the sincere hope that English-speaking readers (Arabs and non-Arabs) may be able to enjoy and to reflect upon some of the sagacious statements, profound thoughts, and witty observations made by the Arabs over the years and passed down from generation to generation.¹

S.E.

¹ I am indebted to several encyclopedias and anthologies; I am particularly grateful to *al-Munjid* (Beirut: Catholic Press, 1956), for its rich and accurate collection of Arabic proverbs.

A

١. أَتْرُكُ الشَّرًّا يَتَرُكُكَ.
1. Abandon evil and evil will abandon you.
٢. الْأَعْمَالُ بِخَوَاتِهَا.
2. Actions are judged by their results.
٣. سَبَقَ السَّيْفُ الْعَدْلَ.
(الْعَدْلُ: الْلَّوْمُ)
3. After the sword has been thrust, any blame becomes futile.
٤. سَكَتَ الْفَأْوَانْطَقَ خَلْفًا.
4. After utter silence, he uttered nonsense.
٥. لَكُلُّ قَدِيمٍ حُرْمَةً.
5. The aged are revered.
٦. وَكُلُّ غَرِيبٍ لِلْغَرِيبِ نَسِيبٌ.
6. All foreigners are related to one another.
٧. مَنْ كَانَ لَكَ كُلَّهُ كَانَ عَلَيْكَ كُلَّهُ.
(الْكُلُّ: التَّعْبُ)
7. All the things that belong to us, are the things that trouble us.
٨. آفَةُ الْمَرْوِةِ خَلْفُ الْوَعْدِ.
8. All good intentions are forgotten, if one doesn't keep one's promise.
٩. لَا يَنْفَعُ حَذَرُ مِنْ قَدَرٍ.
إِنَّ الْحَذَرَ لَا يَدْفَعُ الْمَقْدُورَ.
9. All precautions are in vain when man faces his destiny.
١٠. عَلَى الْبَاغِي تَدْوَرُ الدَّوَائِرُ.
10. All transgressors must one day suffer adversities.
١١. نَعَمُ الْجَدُودُ وَلَكِنْ بَئْسُ مَا خَلَفُوا.
11. Although they had the best forefathers, they left behind the worst offspring.
١٢. أَوْلُ الْعَيْنِ الْاحْتِلَاطُ.
(الْعَيْنُ: الْعَجَزُ؛ الْاحْتِلَاطُ:
الْغَضْبُ)
12. Anger is the first sign of helplessness.

- Annihilation or Domination!
- [His anger was as ineffective] as a horse's anger towards its bridle.
- [They scattered in all directions] as if a skunk had sprayed them with its offensive odor.
- [They sat so still] as if birds had nested upon their heads.
- Averting evil is better than any worldly gain.
- Avoiding evil is a good deed in itself.

B

- Barer than the palm of your hand.
- Be hard as bones, and dogs will chew you.
- Because life is just like this, it has to be endured without a complaint.
- Because the dates are so tasty, one doesn't want to spit the stones.
- Before proposing to the prettiest girl, make sure you can afford her dowry.

- إِمَّا هُلْكٌ وَإِمَّا مُلْكٌ.
- غَضَبَ الْخَيْلُ عَلَى الْجُمْ.
- فَسَا بَيْنِهِمُ الظَّرِبَانُ.
- كَانَ عَلَى رُؤُسِهِمُ الطَّيْرُ.
- دَرَءُ الْمَفَاسِدِ أَوْلَى مِنْ جَلْبِ النِّعَمِ.
- مِنْ ابْتِغَاءِ الْخَيْرِ اتِّقَاءُ الشَّرِّ.

- Befriend the good and flatter the bad.
- A bereaved mother loves the company of bereaved mothers.
- The best admonition is the one that deters.
- The best course is the middle course.
- The best knowledge is the kind that comes to your aid.
- [Don't squeeze yourself] between a tree and its own bark.
- Beware of those whom you once had helped.
- Birds of a feather will flock together.
- [It'll be too late, when] the blade hits the bone.
- Blessed by luck, but doomed by stupidity.
- Blind is the man who is in dire need.
- Bolder than a lion.
- A brief talk is the best talk.
- Buffoonery eradicates dignity.
- آخَ الْأَكْفَاءِ وَدَاهِنُ الْأَعْدَاءِ.
- الشَّكْلُ حَبَّ الشَّكْلَ.
- خَيْرُ الْوَعْظِ مَا رَدَعَ.
- خَيْرُ الْأَمْرِ أَوْسَاطُهَا.
- خَيْرُ الْعِلْمِ مَا حَضَرَكَ.
- بَيْنِ الْعَصَمِ وَلِحَائِهَا.
- إِتَّقِ شَرًّا مِنْ أَحَسِنَ إِلَيْهِ.
- إِنَّ الطَّيْرَ عَلَى أَشْكَالِهَا تَقْعَدُ.
- بَلَغَ السَّكِينُ الْعَظَمَ.
- حَطَّ فِي السَّحَابِ وَعَقَلَ فِي التَّرَابِ.
- صَاحِبُ الْحَاجَةِ أَعْمَى.
- أَجْرَأَ مِنْ أَسَامَةَ.
- أَجْرَأَ مِنْ ذِي لَبْدَةِ.
- (أَسَامَةُ الْأَسْدُ؛ ذُو الْلَبْدَةُ الْأَسْدُ)
- خَيْرُ الْكَلَامِ مَا قَلَّ وَدَلَّ.
- الْمُزَاحَةُ تُذَهِّبُ الْمَهَابَةَ.

20. [Like someone who] builds a house and destroys a city.

٢٠. يَبْنِي قَصْرًا وَيَهْدِمُ مِصْرًا.

21. A bull uses his horns to protect his nose.

٢١. الشَّوَّرُ يَحْمِي أَنفَهُ بِرَوْقِهِ.
(الروق: القرن)

C

1. Can a falcon ever fly without wings?

١. هَلْ يَنْهَضُ الْبَازِي بِلَا جَنَاحًا!
(الباز، البازِي: الصقر)

2. Can a wolf ever turn into a ewe?

٢. ذَئْبٌ اسْتَنْعَجَ.

3. Can the moon be overlooked?

٢. وَهُلْ يُخْفَى عَلَى النَّاسِ الْقَمَرُ!

4. Can the shadow be straight when the rod is crooked?

٤. هَلْ يَسْتَقِيمُ الظُّلُمُ وَالْعَوْدُ
أَعْوَجُ.

5. Cheaper than the dates of Basra.

٥. أَرْخَصُ مِنَ التَّمْرِ بِالْبَصَرَةِ.

6. Choose a wise man to be your emissary, and don't give him any instructions.

٦. أَرْسِلْ حَكِيمًا وَلَا تُؤْتِيهِ

7. Clearer than a rooster's eye.

٧. أَصْفَى مِنْ عَيْنِ الدِّيكِ.

8. Clearer than honey.

٨. أَصْفَى مِنْ جَنَى النَّحْلِ.

9. Clearer than a teardrop.

٩. أَصْفَى مِنْ الدَّمْعَةِ.
أَنْقَى مِنْ الدَّمْعَةِ.

10. Closer to a man than his own shadow.

١٠. أَلَزَمَ لِلْمَرءِ مِنْ ظَلَّهُ.

11. Complaining is a weak man's only weapon.

12. Contentment is better than all the riches of the world.

13. [Someone is] covered with more clothes than an onion.

14. [Someone is like] a cow that is butting its kindest milker.

15. Cowardice begets neither gain nor loss.

D

1. Daylight makes all candles superfluous.

2. [Like someone who is trying to] daub the sun with mud.

3. Deeds testify better than any witness.

4. The deluge is about to cover all mountaintops.

5. [The difference between the two of them is like] the difference between a date and a lump of burning coal.

١١. سِلاحُ الْعَنَاءِ الشَّكَاةِ.

١٢. خَيْرُ الْغِنَى الْقُنْوَعُ.

١٣. أَكْسَى مِنْ بَصْلَةٍ.

١٤. خَيْرُ حَالِبِيكَ تَنْطَحِينَا.

١٥. شَهَرُ الْجُبْنِ لَا رِيحَ وَلَا خُسْرَ.

١. أَغْنَى الصَّبَاحُ عَنِ الْمَصَبَاحِ.

٢. يُطَيِّبُ عَيْنَ الشَّمْسِ.

٢. شَهَادَاتُ الْفَعَالِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ شَهَادَاتِ الرِّجَالِ.

٤. بَلَغَ السَّيْلُ الزُّبْيِ.
(الزُّبْيٌ جَمْعُ زُبْيَةٍ: مَكَانٌ عَالٌ لَا يَصْلُ إِلَيْهِ المَاءُ)

٥. كَالْفَرْقُ بَيْنَ التَّمْرَةِ وَالْجَمْرَةِ.

6. [Like someone who keeps] dipping his brush in an empty can of paint.

7. Discreeter than a chameleon.

8. Disobey your own self, and you will be doing the right thing.

9. Distrusting people is sheer prudence.

10. A dog remains a dog even if it wears a golden collar.

11. A dog's barking never reaches the clouds.

12. Don't be soft or you'll be squeezed, and don't be hard or you'll be broken.

13. Don't be too sweet or you'll be swallowed, and don't be too bitter or you'll be tossed off.

14. Don't censure a certain behavior, only to embrace it afterwards.

15. Don't dive if you can't swim.

16. Don't lose the hens to save the eggs.

17. Don't squeeze yourself between the layers of an onion.

٦. يَدْهُنُ مِنْ قَارُورَةٍ فَارِغَةٍ.

٧. أَحْزَمُ مِنْ الْجِرَبَاءِ.

٨. خَالِفَ نَفْسَكَ تَسْتَرِحُ.
خَالِفَ هُوَكَ تَرْشِدُ.

٩. الْحَزْمُ سُوءُ الظَّنِّ بِالنَّاسِ.

١٠. الْكَلْبُ كَلْبٌ وَلَوْ طَوْقَتُهُ
ذَهَبًا.

١١. نَبْجُ الْكَلَابِ لَا يَضُرُّ
بِالسَّحَابِ.

١٢. لَا تَكُنْ رَطْبًا فَتُعْصَرُ وَلَا
يَابِسًا فَتُكْسَرُ.

١٣. لَا تَكُنْ حُلُوًّا فَتُسْتَرَطُ وَلَا
مُرَّا فَتُعْقَبِي .
(يُسْتَرَطُ: يَبْتَلِعُ؛ يَعْقِي
الشَّيْءَ: يَلْفَظُهُ)

١٤. لَا تَنْهَى عَنْ خَلْقٍ وَتَأْتِي مِثْلَهُ.

١٥. لَا تَقْعُنَ الْبَحْرَ إِلَّا سَابِحًا.

١٦. لَا تُحْيِي الْبَيْضَ وَتَقْتُلُ
الْفَرَاجَ.

١٧. لَا تَدْخُلُ بَيْنَ الْبَصْلَةِ
وَقَشْرَهَا.

18. Don't take a poison only because you have its antidote.

19. [Someone] drifts with every wind.

E

1. Each head has its own ache.

2. [Someone] eats more than a whale.

3. [Someone] eats more than a wood worm.

4. Enmity, hatred, and sickness never arrive in small shares.

5. An envious man will be smitten for his grudge.

6. [Like someone who] escapes the heat by jumping into the fire.

7. Even a little evil is too much evil.

8. Even an unskilled archer may sometimes hit the target.

١٨. لَا تَشْرِبُ السَّمَّ اتَّكَالًا عَلَى
الْتَّرِيَاقِ.

١٩. يَهْبُطُ مَعَ كُلِّ رِيحٍ.

١. كُلْ رَأْسِي بِهِ صُدَاعٌ.

٢. أَكَلَ مِنْ حُوتٍ.

٣. أَكَلَ مِنْ السُّوسِ.

٤. لَا قَلِيلٌ فِي العِدَاوَةِ وَالْإِحْنَادِ
وَالْمَرْضِ .
(الإِحْنَادُ: الْحَدْدُ)

٥. وَيْلٌ لِلْحَسُودِ مِنْ حَسَدِهِ.

٦. كَالْمُسْتَجِيرِ مِنِ الرَّمْضَاءِ
بِالنَّارِ.
(الرمضان: شدة الحر)

٧. الشَّرُّ قَلِيلٌ كَثِيرٌ.

٨. رُبَّ رَمِيَّةٍ مِنْ غَيْرِ رَأْمٍ.

9. Even a she-camel is sometimes kind to her suckling.

٩. لا يُعدم الحُوارُ من أمه حَتَّةً.
(الحُوار : رضيع الناقة)

10. Even if I tried to feed him honey, he'd always try to bite my fingers.

١٠. لو ألقمته عسلًا لعضَّ
إصبعي.

11. Even the cow that doesn't like to be milked, will have to fill its pail.

١١. الضَّجُور تحلُّب العُلْبة.

12. Every chick was once an egg.

١٢. كلّ قائب من قُوبَة.
(القائبة: الفرخ أو البيضة؛
القوب: الفرخ أو البيضة)

13. Every dress fits someone.

١٣. لكلّ ثوبٍ لابس.

14. Every dog barks loudly, when it stands beside its home.

١٤. كُلُّ كَلْبٍ بِبَابِه نَبَّاحٌ.

15. Every era has its men.

١٥. لكلّ دَهْرٍ رجال.
لكلّ زَمَانٍ رجال.

16. Every girl admires her father.

١٦. كُلُّ فَتَاهٍ بِأَبِيهَا مُعْجِبَة.

17. Every distress ends in relief.

١٧. كُلُّ هَمٍ إِلَى فَرْجٍ.
إِنَّ بَعْدَ الْعُسْرِ يَسْرًا.

18. Every man has his share of grief.

١٨. كُلُّ إِنْسَانٍ وَهُمَّ.

19. Every man is formed by his days.

١٩. الإِنْسَانُ ابْنُ يَوْمَه.

20. Every man reflects his clan.

٢٠. الْمَرءُ مَرَأَةُ أَخِيهِ.

21. Every new day brings along its own sustenance.

٢١. لِكُلِّ غَدٍ طَعَامٌ.

22. Every learned man will once err.

٢٢. لِكُلِّ عَالَمْ هَفْوَةٌ.

23. Every pasture was grazed once.

٢٢. بِكُلِّ عُشَبٍ آثارٌ رَّعَيَ.

24. Every plant has its sap.

٢٤. لِكُلِّ عُودٍ عُصَارَةٌ.

25. Every pot oozes what it has inside.

٢٥. وَكُلِّ أَنَاءٍ بِالذِّي فِيهِ يَنْضَحُ.

26. Every runaway camel will eventually return to its hitching place.

٢٦. عُودِي إِلَى مَبَارِكَكَ.

27. Every sun will have to set.

٢٧. لِكُلِّ شَمْسٍ مَغْرِبٌ.

28. Everything folded will one day be unfolded.

٢٨. لِكُلِّ طَيٍّ نَشَرٌ.

29. Every thoroughbred may once trip, and every learned man may once err.

٢٩. لِكُلِّ جَوَادٍ كَبُوَةٌ وَلِكُلِّ عَالَمْ
هَفْوَةٌ.

30. Every torrential rain starts with a trickle.

٣٠. أَوَّلُ الغَيْثٍ قَطْرٌ ثُمَّ يَنْهَرُ.

31. Every tree was once a pit.

٣١. أَوَّلُ الشَّجَرَةِ النَّوَافِذُ.

32. Every war has its ups and downs.

٣١. النَّوَافِذُ أَوَّلُ الشَّجَرَةِ.

33. Excessiveness is never good; even good deeds shouldn't be excessive.

٣٢. الْحَرْبُ سِجَالٌ.
(سِجَالٌ: مَسَاجِلَةٌ)

٣٢. لَا خَيْرٌ فِي السَّرَّافَ وَلَا
سَرَفٌ فِي الْخَيْرِ.

34. Excuses and lies are one and the same.

.٢٤. المعاذرُ مكاذبٌ.

35. Excuses will be accepted by noble-minded people.

.٢٥. والعذرُ عند كرام الناس
مقبول.

36. Eyes reveal the truth better than words.

.٢٦. اللحظة أصدق إِنْبَاءً من
اللفظ.

F

1. Fairer than a weight scale.

.١. أَعْدَلُ من ميزانٍ.

2. Falsehood has a short lifetime, but truth will endure until the end of time.

.٢. جَوَّةُ الْبَاطِلِ سَاعَةٌ وَجَوَّةُ
الْحَقِّ إِلَى قِيامِ السَّاعَةِ.

3. Farther back than yesterday.

.٣. أَفْوَتُ من أَمْسٍ.

4. Feather your arrow before you shoot it.

.٤. قَبْلَ الرَّمْيِ يُرَاشِ السَّهْمِ.

5. First attacks are usually awkward.

.٥. أَوْلَى الغَزْوَ أَخْرَق.

6. First the companion, then the road.

.٦. الرَّفِيقُ قَبْلُ الطَّرِيقِ.

7. First the neighbor, then the home.

.٧. الجَارُ ثُمَ الدَّارُ.

8. First you scold, then you punish.

.٨. الْعَتَابُ قَبْلُ العَقَابِ.

9. Flawless are the things we desire.

10. Flaying doesn't hurt the slaughtered lamb.

11. Flies recognize the milkman.

12. [Someone, or something] follows him closer than his own shadow.

13. Fools have it easy in every respect.

14. Forbidden things are what we covet.

15. For every beautiful thing there is a faultfinder.

16. For every beautiful woman there is a detractor.

17. For every claimant there is a contestant.

18. For every occasion there is a fitting word.

19. Forgetfulness is a disease that afflicts knowledgeable people.

20. Forgiveness is at its best, when one is mighty.

21. For one reason or another, masters become masters.

٩. حَسْنٌ فِي كُلِّ عَيْنٍ مَا تَوَدَّ.

١٠. الشَّاةُ المَذْبُوْحَةُ لَا يَؤْلِمُهَا
السُّلْخُ.

١١. الْذِيَّانُ يَعْرُفُ وِجْهَ الْلَّبَانِ.

١٢. أَتَبْعَ مِنَ الظِّلِّ.

١٣. إِسْتِرَاحَ مِنْ لَا عَقْلَ لَهُ.

١٤. أَحَبُّ شَيْءٍ إِلَى الْإِنْسَانِ مَا
مُنْعَاهُ.

١٥. لَكُلَّ حَسْنَ عَائِبٌ.

١٦. لَا تُعَدُّ الْحَسَنَاءَ ذَاماً.

١٧. لَكُلَّ زَعْمَ خَصْمٌ.

١٨. لَكُلَّ مَقَامٍ مَقَالٌ.

١٩. آفَةُ الْعِلْمِ النِّسِيَانُ.

٢٠. خَيْرُ الْعَفْوِ مَا كَانَ عِنْدَ
الْمُقْدَرَةِ.

٢١. لَأْمَرٌ مَا يَسُودُ مِنْ يَسُودٍ.

22. For those who see with their own eyes, proofs are never needed.

23. [Don't wait until tomorrow,] for tomorrow may belong to someone else.

24. For waging wars, God has created a special breed of men.

25. Frailer than a spiderweb.

26. A free man always keeps his promise.

27. A free man's chest is the tomb of his secrets.

28. [Someone] fumbles like a half-blind camel.

. ٢٢. العِيَان لا يحتاج إلى البيان.

. ٢٢. عَسَى غَدًّا لغيرك.

. ٢٤. خلق الله للحرب رجالاً.

. ٢٥. أوهـنُ من بـيت العنكبوت.

. ٢٦. أنجـز حـرـر ما وـعـدـ.

. ٢٧. صُور الـاحـرـار قـبـورـ الأـسـرـارـ.

. ٢٨. يخـبط خـبط عـشـوـاءـ.
الـعشـوـاءـ [مـؤـنـثـ الـأـعـشـىـ]:
الـنـاقـةـ التـىـ لـاـ تـبـصـرـ جـيـداـ)

G

1. Generosity will be discredited if it is given in excess.

2. God's hand is above all hands.

3. Good deeds enslave people.

4. Good deeds end all kinds of malice.

. ١. آفـةـ الجـودـ الإـسـرـافـ.

. ٢. وـماـ مـنـ يـدـ إـلـاـ يـدـ اللـهـ فـوـقـهـ.

. ٣. النـاسـ عـبـيدـ الـإـحـسـانـ.

. ٤. الـإـحـسـانـ يـقـطـعـ الـلـسـانـ.

5. Good deeds will prevail, even after a long time.

6. A good man's joy is written on his face, but his grief is hidden deep in his heart.

7. Gentle words capture hearts.

8. Give bad things a chance to miss you.

9. The truth lies under the bubbles.

10. Give him first your best dates, then if needed, what he hates.

11. Good deeds make a man happy in both worlds.

12. The graying of a man's hair is the first announcement of his impending death.

13. Greed leads to privation.

14. Greedier than an ant.

15. A greedy man doesn't get more than his allotted share.

16. A grudge is not needed when you have power.

٥. الـخـيرـ أـبـقـىـ وـإـنـ طـالـ الزـمـانـ بـهـ.

٦. الـمـؤـمـنـ بـشـرـهـ فـيـ وـجـهـ وـحـزـنـهـ فـيـ قـلـبـهـ.

٧. لـينـ الـكـلامـ قـيـدـ الـقـلـوبـ.

٨. دـعـ الـعـورـاءـ تـخـطـأـكـ .
(يـقـالـ أـنـ هـذـاـ هـوـ أـحـكـمـ مـثـلـ
ضـرـبـتـهـ الـعـرـبـ !)

٩. الـصـرـيـحـ تـحـتـ الرـغـوةـ .

١٠. أـعـطـ أـخـاكـ تـمـرـةـ فـلـانـ أـبـيـ
فـجـمـرـةـ .

١١. خـيرـ الـأـمـرـ مـاـ أـسـعـدـكـ فـيـ
دارـيـكـ .

١٢. شـيـبـكـ نـاعـيـكـ .

١٢. الـحـرـصـ قـائـدـ الـحـرـمـانـ .

١٤. أـحـرـصـ مـنـ نـمـلـةـ .

١٥. لـيـسـ الـحـرـيـصـ بـزـائـدـ فـيـ
رـزـقـ .

١٦. لـنـ الـقـدـرـةـ تـذـهـبـ الـحـيـثـةـ .

1. A habitual liar should have a good memory.
2. Happy are those who share the happiness of others.
3. Hardships will never dishearten a man of courage.
4. Hard work may exhaust a man, but idleness for sure will ruin him.
5. Harder than a rock.
6. A harmless chat can sometimes lead to serious topics.
7. Harsher than fate.
8. Hearing is never the same as seeing.
9. Haughtier than a crow.
10. Haughtier than a lion's nose.
11. Haughtier than a mountain goat.
12. Haughtier than an eagle in the sky.

١. إن كنت كذوباً فكن ذكوراً.
كـن ذـكـورـاً اذا كـنـتـ كـذـبـاً.
٢. خـيرـ النـاسـ منـ فـرـحـ لـلـنـاسـ
بـالـخـيـرـ.
٣. الـحـرـ حـرـ وـإـنـ مـسـهـ الضـرـ.
٤. إن يـكـنـ الشـغـلـ مـجـهـدـةـ فـلـيـنـ
الـفـرـاغـ مـفـسـدـةـ.
٥. أـقـسـىـ مـنـ صـخـرـ.
٦. الـحـدـيـثـ ذـوـ شـجـونـ.
٧. أـجـفـىـ مـنـ الدـهـرـ.
٨. لـيـسـ الـخـبـرـ كـالـعـاـيـنـةـ.
٩. أـزـهـىـ مـنـ غـرـابـ.
١٠. أـعـزـ مـنـ أـنـفـ الـأـسـدـ.
١١. أـزـهـىـ مـنـ وـعـلـ.
١٢. أـعـزـ مـنـ عـقـابـ الـجـوـ.

13. Haughtier than a peacock.
 14. Have mercy on those below you, and you'll have mercy from those above you.
 15. [Someone is so helpless that] he can neither pull nor let go.
 16. [Someone is so poor that] he doesn't even have a date pit to his name.
(الشـروـىـ : الشـلـ؛ التـقـيرـ :
شـقـ فيـ النـوـاـةـ تـبـتـ مـنـ
الـنـخـلـ)
 17. [Someone is so poor that] he has neither wine nor vinegar.
 18. [Someone is so poor that] he owns neither a sheep nor a camel.
 19. [A shameless liar may even claim that] he had once captured a donkey that had a pair of horns.
 20. He who asks for a faultless friend, is doomed to stay without a friend.
 21. He who aspires higher than others, has more worries to contend with.
 22. He who becomes a lamb, will be devoured by wolves.
١٣. إـرـحـ مـنـ دـونـ يـرـحـمـكـ.
مـنـ فـوـقـ.
 ١٤. لاـ يـمـلـكـ شـرـوـىـ نـقـيرـ.
الـشـروـىـ : الشـلـ؛ النـقـيرـ :
شـقـ فيـ النـوـاـةـ تـبـتـ مـنـ
الـنـخـلـ)
 ١٥. مـاـ أـمـلـكـ شـدـاـ وـلـاـ إـرـخـاءـ.
 ١٦. مـاـ عـنـدـهـ خـلـ وـلـاـ خـمـرـ.
(الـثـاغـيـةـ : النـعـجـةـ؛ الرـاغـيـةـ :
الـنـاقـةـ)
 ١٧. جـاءـ بـقـرـنـيـ حـمـارـ.
 ١٨. مـاـ لـهـ ثـاغـيـةـ وـلـاـ رـاغـيـةـ.
(الـثـاغـيـةـ : النـعـجـةـ؛ الرـاغـيـةـ :
الـنـاقـةـ)
 ١٩. مـنـ طـلـبـ أـخـاـ بـلـاـ عـيـبـ بـقـىـ
بـلـ اـخـ.
 ٢٠. مـنـ عـلـتـ هـمـتـهـ طـالـ هـمـهـ.
 ٢١. مـنـ صـارـ نـعـجـةـ أـكـلـهـ الذـئـبـ.
 ٢٢. مـنـ صـارـ نـعـجـةـ أـكـلـهـ الذـئـبـ.

٢٣. He who blindly trusts the days, will always be betrayed.
٢٤. He who challenges his destiny, will be vanquished every time.
٢٥. He who chooses the smooth road, will be safe of all pitfalls.
٢٦. He who conveys an insult to you, shares the blame for insulting you.
٢٧. He who despises his money, dignifies himself.
٢٨. He who fears no one, no one will ever fear.
٢٩. He who follows his desires, is choosing this world and not the next.
٣٠. He who goes beyond his limit, will one day disgrace himself.
٣١. He who has the might, will always get the spoils.
٣٢. He who helps you abuse others, is himself abusing you.
٢٢. من أَمِنَ الزَّمَانَ خَانَهُ.
٢٤. من غَالَبَ الْأَيَّامَ غُلَبَ.
٢٥. من سَلَكَ الْجَدَدَ أَمِنَ الْعَثَارَ.
(الْجَدَدُ: الْأَرْضُ الْمُسْتَوَيَّةُ)
٢٦. سَبَّكَ مِنْ بَلَغَكَ السُّبُّ.
٢٧. من أَهَانَ مَالَهُ أَكْرَمَ نَفْسَهُ.
٢٨. من لَا يَخَافُ أَحَدًا لَا يَخَافُ أَحَدًا.
٢٩. من أطَاعَ هُوَاهُ بَاعَ دِينَاهُ.
٢٠. من أَكْثَرَ أَهْجَرَ.
(الْأَهْجَرَاتُ، الْأَهْجَرَاتُ:
الْفَضَائِحُ، الْفَحْشَى)
٢١. من عَزَّ بَزَّ.
(عَزَّ: قَوِيٌّ، اشْتَدَّ، بَزَّ:
غُلَبَ، سَلَبَ)
٢٢. من أَعْانَكَ عَلَى الشَّرِّ ظَلَمَكَ.
٣٣. He who informs you about them, will soon inform them about you.
٣٤. He who is not a real wolf, will be devoured by other wolves.
٣٥. He who looks hard within himself, will undoubtedly find God.
٣٦. He who magnifies his own misfortunes, will be afflicted with greater ones.
٣٧. He who moves cautiously, will surely reach his goal.
٣٨. He who ponders all results, will avert all disasters.
٣٩. He who repents all his sins, is like a man without sins.
٤٠. He who says something nice, will always hear something nice.
٤١. He who serves others, others will always serve him.
٤٢. He who slights himself, will be slighted by everyone.
٤٣. He who tries hard, will ultimately find the right path.
٤٤. من لم يكن ذِبَابًا أَكْلَتهُ الذَّبَابُ.
٤٥. من عَرَفَ نَفْسَهُ عَرَفَ رَبَّهُ.
٤٦. من عَظَمَ صِنَاعَ المَصَابِ ابْتِلَاهُ اللَّهُ بِكَبَارِهَا.
٤٧. من تَأَنَّى ادْرَكَ مَا تَمَنَّى.
٤٨. من نَظَرَ فِي الْعَوَاقِبِ سَلِيمٌ مِنَ النَّوَابِ.
٤٩. التَّائِبُ مِنَ الذَّنْبِ كَمَنْ لَا ذَنْبَ لَهُ.
٤٠. مَنْ أَجْمَلَ قِيلَّاً سَمِعَ جَمِيلًا.
٤١. من خَدَمَ الرِّجَالَ خُدِمَ.
٤٢. من هَانَتْ عَلَيْهِ نَفْسُهُ فَهُوَ عَلَى غَيْرِهِ أَهُونُ.
٤٣. مَنْ جَدَّ وَجَدَ.

44. He who transgresses the truth, will find himself on a sinister path.

٤٤. من تعدى الحق ضاع مذهب.

45. He who trusts his fellowmen, will always have a peaceful life.

٤٥. من حَسْنَ ظُنُّهُ طَابَ عِيشُهُ.

46. He who was once bitten by a snake, becomes cautious of every length of rope.

٤٦. من نهشتهُ الحَيَاةُ حَذَرَ الرسن.
(الرسن: الجبل)

47. He who wavers, will always fail.

٤٧. من هاب خاب.

48. He who wrestles with the truth, will ultimately be brought to the ground.

٤٨. من صارع الحق صرّعه.

49. He who yields to his anger, is a man of bad manners.

٤٩. من أطاع غضبه أضاع أدبه.

50. [Someone is so deft that] he would easily lift the kohl from a woman's eyelids.

٥٠. يسرق الْكُحْلَ من العين.

51. [Someone is so stupid that] he wouldn't know the difference between his elbow and his foot.

٥١. لا يعرف الكُوع من الْبُوع.
(البُوع: عظم في مشط القدم)

52. His words are air in a cage.

٥٢. كلامه ريح في قفص.

53. An honorable man's word is a debt he must repay.

٥٣. وعد الكرييم دين.

54. Hope ends when life ends.

٥٤. لا تخرج النفس من الأمل حتى تدخل في الأجل.

55. Horses are the best judges of their riders.

56. Horses recognize their own riders.

57. Hotter than live coal.

58. An hour's pain is better than hours of pain.

59. How painful can an ant's bite be!

60. Hungrier than a wolf.

61. Hurricanes sweep away all kinds of windfall.

I

1. I am furious and you're in rage, how can we turn a new page!

2. I am not the first man to be deceived by a mirage.

٥٥. الخيلُ أعلمُ بفرسانها.

٥٦. عَرَفَتِ الْخَيْلُ فُرْسَانَهَا.

٥٧. أحَرُّ من نار الغَصَّى.
(الغَصَّى: نوع من الخشب
يبيقي جمره زمناً طويلاً
لا ينطفئ)

٥٨. وجُّ سَاعَةٍ وَلَا كُلُّ سَاعَةٍ.

٥٩. ما عَسَى إِنْ يَلْعَظُ عَضْعُ النَّمَلِ.

٦٠. أَجَوَّعُ مِنْ ذَبَّ.

٦١. مَالٌ تَجْلِي الرِّياحُ تَأْخِذُ الزَّوابِعَ.

١. أنا تَنِقُّ وأنت مَنِقٌ فكيف تَنِقُّ.

(التَّنِقٌ: المُتَلَقِّي غَضْبًا؛
المَنِقٌ: من يَكَادُ يَبْكِي مِنْ شَدَّةِ الغَيْظِ)

٢. لَسْتُ بَاوَلٌ مِنْ غَرَّةِ السَّرَّابِ.

3. I bet if I traded in coffins, no one would ever die.
4. I'd rather be devoured by a lion than eaten by a dog.
5. I'd rather eat my own flesh before anyone else does.
6. I fed you my best broth, in anticipation of a day like this.
7. If a lion spares you, don't be tempted to hunt it down.
8. If God doesn't provide, all hard work remains useless.
9. If God has given you a ladle, then there is no need to burn your fingers.
10. [It wouldn't have been such a disgrace,] if I had been slapped by a real lady.
11. If it is your rip, patch it up.
12. If it weren't for concessions, there wouldn't be a human race.
13. If lying is a sickness, telling the truth is the only remedy.
14. [This will be possible only] if milk could be pushed back into the udder.
٢. لو أتّجرت بالاكفان ما مات أحد.
٤. يأكلني سبع ولا يأكلني كلب.
٥. أكل لحمي ولا أدعه لأكل.
٦. مثل هذا كنت أحسيك الحسا.
٧. إن سلمت من الأسد فلا تعمق في صيده.
٨. رِزْقُ اللَّهِ لَا كُدُّكُ.
٩. إذا رزقك الله معرفةً فلا تحرق يدك.
١٠. لو ذات سوارٍ لطمتنى.
١١. عندك وهي فارقعيه.
(الوهي : العيب، الشق)
١٢. لولا الوئام لهلك الأنام.
١٣. الكذب داء والصدق شفاءً.
١٤. حتى يرجع الدَّرُّ في الضَّرع.
(الدر: اللبن)
15. If owls were good for something, hunters wouldn't have left them alone.
16. If people were fair, judges would have nothing to do.
17. If the bow maker and the arrow maker get entangled, no hunt will ever take place.
18. If you become an anvil, be patient; if you become a hammer, be painful.
19. If you don't push and shove, you'll end up holding an empty bag.
20. If you haven't woven it yourself, then drag it and shove it as you please.
21. If you hit, make it painful, and if you scold, make it loud.
22. If you scratch a wound, it will certainly bleed.
23. If your brother pulls hard, then it is your turn to release.
24. Ignorance is a man's worst companion.
١٥. لو كان في البومة خير ما تركها الصياد.
١٦. لو أنصف الناس استراح القاضي.
١٧. إختلط الحابل بالنابل.
(الحابل: من ينصب الجبال، الصائد، أو من يشد جبال القوس؛
النابل: صاحب النبال أو السهام، أو صانعها أو الرامي بها)
١٨. اذا كنت سندانا فاصبر
واذا كنت مطرقة فأوجع.
١٩. إن لم تُزاحم لم يقع في الخُرج شيء.
٢٠. ليس عليك نسجه فاسحب وجر.
٢١. إذا ضربت فأوجع وإذا زجرت فأسمع.
٢٢. إذا حكت قرحةً أدميتها.
٢٢. إذا عَزَّ أخوك فهو.
٢٤. الجهل شر الأصحاب.

25. I hear grinding but see no flour.

٢٥. [أَسْمَعَ] جَعْجَةً وَلَا أُرِي طحناً.

26. It is always nice to be in charge, even if it is only of a pile of rocks.

٢٦. يَاجِدُوا الإِمَارَةَ وَلَوْ عَلَى الْحَجَارَةِ.

27. It is either your brother or the wolf.

٢٧. أَخْوَكَ أُمُّ الذَّئْبِ

28. It is not fair to ask the wolf to guard the sheep.

٢٨. مِنْ أَسْتَرْعَى الذَّئْبَ ظَلْمًا.

29. It is the worst of all deals when you lose the camel to save the fetters.

٢٩. بَئْسَ الْعِوضُ مِنْ جَمِيلٍ قِيَدَهُ.

J

1. Just listening to evil talk is evil enough.

١. حَسِبَكَ مِنْ شَرِّ سَمَاعَةٍ.

2. Just lower your head, and this too will pass.

٢. تَطَأْطِئُ لَهَا تُخْطِئُ.

3. Just tell him these are red dates, and he will insist they are glowing embers.

٣. لَوْ قُلْتُ تَمَرَّةً لَقَالَ جَمَرَةً

K

1. Knowledge is afflicted by forgetfulness.

١. آفَةُ الْعِلْمِ النَّسِيَانُ.

2. Keep your dog hungry, and it will follow you everywhere.

٢. أَجِعْ كَلْبَكَ يَتَبَعَّكَ.

3. Kindness enslaves all free men.

٣. بِالْبَرِّ يُسْتَعْبَدُ الْحُرُّ.

L

1. A large spoon reaches the bottom of every pot.

٤. تُخْرِجُ الْمِقدَحَةَ مَا فِي قَعْدَةِ الْبَرْمَةِ.

(المقدحة: المفرقة؛ البرمة: قدر مصنوع من حجر)

2. Learned men are God's custodians of humanity.

٥. الْعُلَمَاءُ أَمْنَاءُ اللَّهِ عَلَى خَلْقِهِ.

٦. أَنْكَرَ مِنْ شَيْءٍ.

٣. Less defined than a "thing."

٧. حَفَّ طَعَامَكَ تَأْمِنْ سَقَامَكَ.

٤. Less food means less illness.

٨. أَمْنَعُ مِنْ عَقَابِ الْجَوَّ.

٥. Less reachable than an eagle in the sky.

(الأُنْوَقُ: الْعَقَابُ، الرَّخْمَةُ)

٦. أَبْعَدُ مِنْ بَيْضِ الْأُنْوَقِ.

٧. أَعْزُّ مِنْ بَيْضِ الْأُنْوَقِ.

(الأُنْوَقُ: الْعَقَابُ، الرَّخْمَةُ)

7. Less reliable than the water of a creek.
أَغْدَرُ مِنْ غَدَيرٍ.
8. Less useful than a lamp placed in the sunlight.
أَضَيْعُ مِنْ سِرَاجٍ فِي شَمْسٍ.
9. Less useful than a sheath that has no blade.
أَضَيْعُ مِنْ غَمِّيْلَهْ بِلَا نَصْلٍ.
10. Let us dismount, for we have reached greener pastures!
أَمْرَعْتَ فَانْزَلْ.
11. Lies undermine all communications.
آفَةُ الْحَدِيثِ الْكَذَبُ.
12. [Someone] lies more than a captive.
أَكَذَبُ مِنَ الْأَخِيدِ.
(الأخيد : الأسير)
13. Like a camel driver who has just lost his caravan.
كَالْحَادِي وَلَيْسَ لَهُ بَعِيرٌ.
(الحادي : سائق الإبل)
14. Like a thunderbolt that brings no rain.
إِنَّمَا هُوَ كَبْرَقُ الْخَلْبِ.
(الخلب : سحاب لا مطر فيه)
15. Like a physician who is trying to heal others, while he himself is sick.
طَبِيبٌ يَدْاُوِي النَّاسَ وَهُوَ مَرِيضٌ.
16. Like a scorpion who challenges a snake to a fight.
تَحَكَّتُ الْعَرْبَ بِالْأَفْعَى.
17. Like a vicious circle that has no beginning and has no end.
كَالْحَلْقَةُ الْمُفْرَغَةُ لَا يُدْرِي أَيْنَ طَرْفَاهَا.
18. Like iron, a human heart also rusts.
تَصْدُأُ الْقُلُوبُ كَمَا يَصْدُأُ الْحَدِيدُ.
19. Like sheep on a green pasture that aren't allowed to graze.
كَالْمَرْبُوطِ وَالْمَرْعَى خَصِيبٌ.
20. Like someone running from the heat into the fire.
كَالْمُسْتَغْيَثِ مِنَ الرَّمْضَاءِ بِالنَّارِ.
(الرمضان : شدة الحر)
21. Like someone who roasted his meat, then dropped it into the fire.
كَالْمُرْعَى فِي النَّارِ.
22. Like swarms of locust that strip the land of all seeds and plants.
كَالْجَرَادِ لَا يُبْقِي وَلَا يَذَرُ.
23. Like the Kaaba, people come to it, but it goes to no one.
كَالْكَعْبَةِ تُزَارُ وَلَا تَزُورُ.
24. Like the ostrich, it is neither a bird nor a camel.
كَالْأُشْرِيقِ لَا يَنْبَرِقُ.
25. Like writing on water.
كَالرَّاقِمِ عَلَى الْمَاءِ.
26. A listless person has no friends.
لَيْسَ لَلَّوْلِ صَدِيقٌ.
27. Longer lasting than a message engraved in stone.
أَبْقَى مِنْ وَحْيٍ فِي حَجَرٍ.
(الوحى : الرسالة، المكتوب)
28. Longer lasting than eternity.
أَبْقَى مِنَ الدَّهْرِ.
29. Longer than the month of Ramadan.
أَطْوَلُ مِنْ شَهْرِ الصُّومِ.
30. Longer than the shadow of a lance.
أَطْوَلُ مِنْ ظِلِّ الرَّمْحِ.

31. The longer you live, the more you see.

.٢١. مهماً تعيشْ تَرَهْ.

32. Look after your friend even if you were engulfed by fire.

.٢٢. حافظْ على الصديق ولو في الحريق.

33. [Someone] loses his way easier than a lizard does.

.٢٣. أضل من ضب.
(الضب: حيوان من الزحافات، "السلحفاة")

34. Lost are those who are guided by blind people.

.٢٤. قد ضلَّ من كانت العُميانُ تهدِيه.

35. A lover's eye never sees the truth.

.٢٥. عين الهوى لا تصدق.

36. A low land sucks its water and the water destined for other lands.

.٢٦. الأرض الواطنة تشرب ماءَها وماءَ غيرها.

37. Lower your bucket in every well.

.٢٧. ألق في الدلاء دلوك.
(دَلَى الدلو: ارسل الدلو في البئر)

M

1. Madness takes many shapes and forms.

.١. الجنون فنون.

2. Make sure your bed is snug and soft before you lie down.

.٢. دَمِثْ لجنبك قبل النوم
مُضطجعاً.
(دمث: لين)

3. Man always covets what he doesn't possess.

.٣. المرء تَوَاقِعُ إلى ما لم يَتَنَلَ.

4. A man always senses who is on his side.

5. The man in charge is the most tormented man around.

6. Man is enslaved by good deeds.

7. A man is known by the friends he keeps.

8. A man is sometimes blamed for what takes place in his neighbor's house.

9. Mankind is the prey of fate.

10. A man shouldn't be blamed for evading his own destruction.

11. A man stands where he puts himself.

12. A man's choice is an indication of his wisdom.

13. A man's companion is a reflected image of himself.

14. A man's appearance may be more telling than his words.

15. A man's erudition is in his heart, and not within the pages of his books.

٤. النفس تعلم من اخوها النافع.

٥. سيد القوم أشقاهم.

٦. الإنسان عبد الإحسان.

٧. المرء بخليله.

٨. قد يؤخذ الجار بذنب الجار.

٩. الأنام فرائس الأيام.

١٠. ليس يلام هارب من حتفه.

١١. المرء حيث يضع نفسه.

١٢. دل على عاقل اختياره.

١٣. جليس المرء مثله.

١٤. رب حال أفسح من لسان.

١٥. العلم في الصدور لا في السطور.

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| ١٦. A man's good manners are better than all his riches. | ١٦. أَدْبُ الرَّءَاءِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ ذَهَبٍ. | ٢٨. Misfortunes of some, are blessings for others. | ٢٨. مَصَابُ قَوْمٍ عِنْدَ قَوْمٍ فَوَادِعُ. |
| ١٧. A man's injustice is what causes his downfall. | ١٧. ظُلْمُ الرَّءَاءِ يَصْرِعُهُ. | ٢٩. Modesty is the crown of all knightly virtues. | ٢٩. تَاجُ الْمُرْوَأَةِ التَّواضعُ. |
| ١٨. A man's inner wealth is better than any other wealth. | ١٨. غَنَّى النَّفْسُ أَنْفَلُ مِنْ غَنَّى الْمَالِ. | ٣٠. Money is the most effective emissary. | ٢٠. لَا رَسُولٌ كَالْدَرْهَمِ. |
| ١٩. A man's livelihood depends on good planning. | ١٩. التَّدْبِيرُ نَصْفُ الْمَيْشَةِ. | ٣١. Money salves every wound. | ٢١. الدَّرَاهِمُ مَرَاهِمُ. |
| ٢٠. A man's might is measured by the degree of his independence. | ٢٠. عِزُّ الرَّجُلِ اسْتَغْنَاؤُهُ عَنِ النَّاسِ. | ٣٢. More acquisitive than an ant. | ٢٢. أَجْمَعُ مِنْ نَمْلَةِ. |
| ٢١. A man is most vulnerable between his jaws. | ٢١. مَقْتُلُ الرَّجُلِ بَيْنَ فَكَيْهِ. | ٣٣. More adrift than the people of Moses. | ٢٢. أَتَيْهُ مِنْ قَوْمٍ مُوسَىَ. |
| ٢٢. A man's true nature will always prevail. | ٢٢. الطَّبَعُ أَغْلَبُ. | ٣٤. More aggressive than a scorpion. | ٢٤. أَعْدَى مِنْ الْعَرَبِ. |
| ٢٣. A man's wisdom is reflected in what he does, and his knowledge, in what he says. | ٢٣. دَلِيلُ عِقْلِ الرَّءَاءِ فَعْلَهُ وَدَلِيلُ عِلْمِ قَوْلَهُ. | ٣٥. More arrogant than a crow. | ٢٥. أَخْيَلُ مِنْ غُرَابِ. |
| ٢٤. Many arrows may miss, but eventually one will hit the mark. | ٢٤. مَعَ الْخَوَاطِئِ سَهْمٌ صَابِ. | ٣٦. More arrogant than a rooster. | ٢٦. أَخْيَلُ مِنْ دِيكِ. |
| ٢٥. Meager but yours, is better than plump but theirs. | ٢٥. غَثْكٌ خَيْرٌ مِنْ سَمِينٍ غَيْرِكِ. | ٣٧. More barren than solid rock. | ٢٧. أَجْرَدُ مِنْ صَخْرَةِ. |
| ٢٦. Milk the cow only if you'll get your share. | ٢٦. احْلُبْ حَلَبًا لَكَ شَطَرَهُ. | ٣٨. More brutish than torrential rain. | ٢٨. أَغْشَمُ مِنْ السَّيْلِ. |
| ٢٧. Merry days are short days. | ٢٧. يَوْمُ السُّرُورِ قَصِيرٌ. | ٣٩. More cautious than a crow. | ٢٩. أَحْذَرُ مِنْ غُرَابِ. |
| | | ٤٠. More cautious than a wolf. | ٤٠. أَحْذَرُ مِنْ ذَئْبِ. |
| | | ٤١. More confused than a lizard. | ٤١. أَحْيَرُ مِنْ ضَبَّ. |
| | | (الضَّبُّ: حَيْوَانٌ مِنَ الزَّحَافَاتِ، "السَّحلِيَّةُ") | |

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ٤٢. أعدى من الجرب. | ٤٢. أشجع من ليث. | ٥٨. أفسد من الجراد. |
| ٤٣. More courageous than a lion. | ٤٤. أجبن من نعامة. | ٥٩. أذل من وتد. |
| ٤٤. More cowardly than an ostrich. | ٤٥. أروغ من ثعلب. | ٦٠. أذل من بساط. |
| ٤٥. More cunning than a fox. | ٤٦. أجرأ من ذباب. | ٦١. أذل من نعل. |
| ٤٦. More daring than a fly. | ٤٧. أغر من سراب. | ٦٢. أحكى من قرد. |
| ٤٧. More deceptive than a mirage. | ٤٨. أختل من الذئب. | ٦٣. أمضى من السيف. |
| ٤٨. More deceptive than a wolf. | ٤٩. أغر من الأmani. | ٦٤. أمضى من الأجل. |
| ٤٩. More deluding than our ambitions. | ٥٠. أيأس من غريق. | ٦٥. أصنع من النحل. |
| ٥٠. More desperate than a drowning man. | ٥١. أكسب من نمل. | ٦٦. أصنع من دود القز. |
| ٥١. More diligent than ants. | ٥٢. أثبت من الوشم. | ٦٧. أعقد من ذنب الخب. |
| ٥٢. More lasting than a tattoo. | ٥٣. أجهل من فراشة. | (الخب: نوع من الزحافات، "السلحية") |
| ٥٣. More foolish than a butterfly. | ٥٤. أحمق من ماضي الماء. | ٦٨.أشأم من حفار. |
| ٥٤. More foolish than someone who chews his water. | ٥٥. أحمق من نعامة. | ٦٩. أشهر من نار على علم. |
| ٥٥. More foolish than an ostrich. | ٥٦. أجهل من عقرب. | ٧٠. أشهر من الشمس. |
| ٥٦. More foolish than a scorpion. | ٥٧. أفسد من السوس. | ٧١. أمضى من الريح. |
| ٥٧. More harmful than a wood worm. | | ٧٢. أنفذ من السهم. |

73. More reckless than a butterfly.

.٧٣. أطيشُ من فراشة.

74. More revealing than daylight.

.٧٤. أنمُ من الصبح.

75. More secretive than the earth.

.٧٥. أكتُمُ من الأرض.

76. More sharp-sighted than a bat in the dark.

.٧٦. أبصرُ من الوطواط في الليل.

77. More sharp-sighted than an eagle.

.٧٧. أبصرُ من عقاب.
أبصرُ من نسر.

78. The more the wisdom, the less the words.

.٧٨. إذا تمَ العقلُ نقص الكلامُ.

79. More thirsty than a funnel.

.٧٩. أشربُ من القمع.
أعطشُ من قمع.

80. More thirsty than the sand.

.٨٠. أظماءً من رمل.
أشربُ من الرمل.
أعطشُ من رمل.

81. More tumultuous than a torrential stream.

.٨١. أطغى من السيل.

82. More useful than a much-needed rain.

.٨٢. أجدى من الغيث في أوانيه.

83. More vengeful than a camel.

.٨٣. أحقدُ من جمل.

84. More wakeful than a star.

.٨٤. أسهرُ من النجم.

85. More wicked than a snake.

.٨٥. أظلمُ من حيّة.

86. The most evil people are those who don't try to hide their evil from other people.

87. A mute's mother knows how to talk to the mutes.

88. My bow may be crooked, but my arrows never miss.

N

١. الضرورات تُبيح المحظورات.

٢. الحاجة تفتقر الحيلة.

٣. الخلة تدعو إلى السلة.
(الخلة: الحاجة، الفقر)
السلة: السرقة)

٤. أروى من ضب.
(الضب: نوع من الزحافات، "السلحفاة")

٥. أروى من حية.

٦. أغنى عن الشيء من الأقرع عن المشط.

٧. ربك وصاحبك لا تكذب عليهما.

٨٦. شرُ الناس من لا يبالي أن يراه الناس مسيئاً.

٨٧. أم الآخرين تعرف بلغات الخرسان.

٨٨. لن حالت القوسُ فسهمي صائب.

8. The night is short for those who are sound asleep.
٨. ما أقصى الليل على الرائد.
9. No action can ever be blamed, if it was preceded by a proper warning.
٩. أغدر من أندذر.
10. No deal is as profitable as a good deed.
١٠. لا تجارة كالعمل الصالح.
11. No drug can ever erase the mark of time.
١١. وهل يصلح العطار ما أفسد الدهر!
12. No guilt after repentance.
١٢. لا جرم بعد التدama.
13. No matter how hard you polish it, copper will always remain copper.
١٣. شوف النحاس يظهر النحاسا.
(شاف الشيء : صقله وجلاه)
14. No need or desire is worth the pain of fire.
١٤. لا خير في أرب القاك في لهب.
(الأرب : المأرب، الغاية)
15. No property will ever be lost, if its rightful owner doesn't give up.
١٥. لا يضيع حق وراءه طالب.
16. No reproach after death.
١٦. لا عتاب بعد الموت.
17. Not all we know can be divulged.
١٧. ما كل ما يعلم يُقال.
18. Not answering a foolish man is an answer in itself.
١٨. ترك الجواب على الجاهل جواب.
19. Not every archer hits the mark.
١٩. ما كل رامي غرض يُصيّب.
20. Not every black thing is a date.
٢٠. ما كل سوداء تمرة.
21. Not every thunderbolt brings rain.
(البارقة: سحابة ذات برق)
22. Not every question has a reply.
٢٢. ما كل قول له جواب.
23. Not every week spot is vulnerable.
٢٣. لا في العير ولا في التفير.
(العيير: قافلة الحمير؛
التفير: مجموعة من الناس)
24. Not good enough to join the gentry, and not bad enough to join the herd.
٢٤. يأكل التمر وأرجم بالنوى.
25. Not only did they eat my dates, but they also threw the pits at me.
٢٥. لا ناقة لي في هذا ولا جمل.
- O
1. Of all the herds you see around, not a single camel belongs to me.
١. الزيت في العجين لا يضيع.
2. Oil kneaded in dough is never lost.
٢. أعمى من نسر.
3. Older than an eagle.
٣. أحيا من ضَبَّ
4. Older than a lizard.
(الضَبَّ: "السلحفاة")

5. Older than a serpent.
٥. أَعْمَرُ مِنْ حَيَّةً.
6. On the day of examination, one faces praise or humiliation.
٦. عِنْدَ الامْتِحَانِ يُكْرَمُ الرَّءُوْءُ وَ
يُهَانُ.
7. Once he was an anvil, now he became a hammer.
٧. كَانَ سَنْدَانًا فَصَارَ مَطْرِقًا.
8. [Nothing can be done] once the saddle straps slip down the horse's belly.
٨. بَلَغَ الْحِزَامُ الطَّبِيَّيْنِ.
جَاؤَ الْحِزَامُ الطَّبِيَّيْنِ.
(الطبّي : حلمة ضرع الناقة،
وهي بعيدة تماماً عن مربط
حزام السرج)
9. One catches the fish, but another eats it.
٩. هَذَا يَصِيدُ وَهَذَا يَأْكُلُ
السَّمْكَةَ.
10. One disaster is still better than two.
١٠. وَيْلٌ أَهُونُ مِنْ وَيْلَيْنِ.
11. One never tires of talking about the things one loves.
١١. مِنْ أَحَبَّ شَيْئًا أَكْثَرَ مِنْ
ذِكْرِهِ.
12. One is always dazzled by the things that happen fast.
١٢. النَّفْسُ مُولَعَةٌ بِحَبَّ الْعَاجِلِ.
13. One water wheel wouldn't roil a sea.
١٣. سَاقِيَّةٌ لَا تَعْكِرُ بَحْرًا.
14. Only a fool would knock his head against a rock.
١٤. أَحْمَقُ مِنْ نَاطِحِ الصَّخْرِ.
15. Only after you have galloped with it will you know whether you had mounted a thoroughbred or a hee-haw.
١٥. سُوفَ تَرَى إِذَا انْجَلَى
الْغَبَارُ، أَفْرَسَ تَحْتَكَ أَمْ
حِمَارًا.
16. Only an evil person would take pleasure in the mishaps of others.
١٦. الشَّمَاتَةُ لَؤْمٌ.
17. Only evil repels evil.
١٧. الشَّرُّ لِلشَّرِّ خُلُقٌ.
18. Only foolish people take advantage of gentle and obliging people.
١٨. الْحَلَيمُ مَطِيَّةُ الْجَهُولِ.
19. Only iron can split iron.
١٩. لَنِ الْحَدِيدُ بِالْحَدِيدِ يُفْلِحُ.
20. Only iron defeats iron.
٢٠. لَا يُفْلِلُ الْحَدِيدُ إِلَّا الْحَدِيدُ.
21. Only unskilled people do things in haste.
٢١. الْعَجْلَةُ فُرْصَةُ الْعَجَزَةِ.
22. Only when you yourself scratch the spot that itches will you ever get real relief.
٢٢. مَا حَكَ جَلْدُكَ مِثْلُ ظِفْرِكَ.
23. Oppose and you'll be noticed.
٢٣. خَالِفْ تُذَكَّرُ.
خَالِفْ تُعْرَفُ.
24. Oysters may give other things beside pearls.
٢٤. قَدْ يَخْرُجُ مِنَ الصَّدْفِ غَيْرَ الدُّرِّ.
١. الصَّبْرُ حِيلَةٌ مِنْ لَا حِيلَةٍ لَهُ.
٢. دَوَاءُ الدَّهْرِ الصَّبْرُ عَلَيْهِ.

P

1. Patience is a hopeless man's last hope.
2. Patience is the best medicine against the changes of fate.

3. Patience is the key to relief.

.٢. الصبر مفتاح الفرج.

4. Paying attention to obscenity is an obscene act in itself.

.٤. تأمل العيب عيب.

5. People always follow a winner.

.٥. الناس أتباع من غالب.

6. People always stumble into the pitfalls they dig for others.

.٦. من حفر حفرة وقع فيها.

7. People are enemies of the things they don't know.

.٧. الناس أعداء ما جهلو.

8. People don't lack strength when they work together.

.٨. لا يعجز القوم اذا تعاونوا.

9. Persistence sometimes helps, but it also sometimes harms.

.٩. ومن اللجاجة ما يضر وينفع.

10. A pig's skin cannot be tanned.

.١٠. جلد الخنزير لا يندفع.

11. Pleasing everybody is an unreachable aim.

.١١. رضا الناس غاية لا تدرك.

12. Pour water on your embers when they become too hot.

.١٢. هرق على جمرك.

(هرق الماء، او هرق الماء : صب الماء)

13. Prettier than a peacock.

.١٣. أحسن من الطاووس.

R

1. A race is decided at the finish line.

.١. عند الغاية يعرف السبق.

2. A rage begins with frenzy and ends with remorse.

.٢. أول الغضب جنون وأخره ندم.

3. Rain heals what hail ruins.

.٣. أصلح غيث ما أفسد البرد.

4. Rarer than a rooster's egg.

.٤. كبيضة الديك.
كانت بيضة الديك.

5. Rarer than a white-footed crow.

.٥. أغز من الغراب الأعمى.
(أعمى: به بياض وسود)

6. The rays of the sun cannot be hidden, and the light of truth cannot be obscured.

.٦. شعاع الشمس لا يخفى ونور الحق لا يطفى.

7. Read the signs of coming events!

.٧. خذ الأمر بقوابله.
(قوابل الأمور: اوائل الأمور)

8. A real healer must be able to heal himself.

.٨. يا طبيب طب نفسك.

9. Reason is man's best adviser.

.٩. العقل وزير ناصح.

10. Rebuking your friends is much better than giving up on them.

.١٠. معاقبة الإخوان خير من فقدهم.

11. Refusing everybody pleases everybody.

.١١. منع الجميع أرضي الجميع.

12. Regretting your silence is better than regretting your words.

13. Remoter than a star.

14. Rewards should match the deeds.

15. [Someone] rises earlier than a crow.

16. [Someone went so fast, as if he were] riding on the wings of an ostrich.

17. Roses come from thorny bushes.

18. Ruined is the man who seeks help from an evil man.

S

1. A sage's supposition is better than a fool's certitude.

2. Saying "If I had done this," or "If I had done that," will never be able to change the past.

3. A scorpion stings then shrieks for help.

١٢. الندم على السكوت خير من الندم على القول.

١٣. أثني من الكوكب.

١٤. الجزاء من جنس العمل.

١٥. أبكر من غراب.

١٦. ركب جناحي النعامة.

١٧. من الشوكة تخرج الوردة.

١٨. العديم من احتاج الى لئيم.

١. ظن العاقل خير من يقين الجاهل.

٢. وهل يُغْنِي من الحدثان ليت!

٢. تلدغ العقرب وتصيء.
(يصيء، يوصي،
يزقرق، يصرصرا)

4. A scout doesn't lie to his own people.

5. Should one hope for rain when there are no clouds in the sky?

6. Shyer than an ostrich.

7. Sift people and people will sieve you.

8. Silence may sometimes be the proper answer.

9. Silence is always better when you can't find the right words.

10. Silence is the brother of consent.

11. Similar to each other as if they were two dates.

12. Simple events sometimes lead to serious events.

13. A simple demand may sometimes lead to war.

14. A single cadaver cannot befoul the whole sea.

15. A single glance is sometimes more eloquent than many words.

16. [Someone was so restless, as if he were] sitting on smoldering coal.

٤. الرائد لا يكذب اهله.

٥. هل يُرتجى مطر غير سحاب!

٦. أنفر من نعامة.

٧. من غربل الناس نخلوه.

٨. ربما كان السكوت جواباً.

٩. عي صامت خير من عي ناطق.
(العي: العجز)

١٠. السكوت أخو الرضا.

١١. إنه لأشبّه به من التمرة بالتمرة.

١٢. ويحدث من بعض الأمور.

١٣. رب طلب جر إلى حرب.

١٤. جيفنة لا تُعَكِّر بحراً.

١٥. رب طرف أنصح من لسان.

١٦. أحمر من الجمر.
على أحمر من الجمر.

١٧. A slave is the man who has no slaves.
١٨. A slave must be beaten to get his attention, but a freeman needs nothing more than a hint.
١٩. A slip of the foot is less harmful than a slip of the tongue.
٢٠. Small pebbles are parts of big mountains.
٢١. A snake charmer is never safe from bites.
٢٢. Socialize like brothers, but do business like foreigners.
٢٣. Soft words but harsh deeds.
٢٤. Solitude is better than an evil companion.
٢٥. Some dead people are not worth the tears we shed on them.
٢٦. Some diseases may make the body stronger.
٢٧. Some eloquent words work like magic.
٢٨. Some evil is less evil than others.
٢٩. Some eyes say more than tongues.
١٧. العَبْدُ مِنْ لَا عَبْدَ لَهُ.
١٨. العَبْدُ يُقْرَعُ بِالْعَصَمِ وَالْحُرُّ
تَكْفِيهِ الإِشَارَةُ.
١٩. عَثَرَةُ الْقَدْمِ أَسْلَمَ مِنْ عَثَرَةِ
اللِّسَانِ.
٢٠. الْحَصَّاءُ مِنْ الْجَبَلِ.
٢١. الْحَوَّا يَلْمُزُ مِنَ الْحَيَاةِ.
٢٢. تَعَاشُرُوا كَالإِخْوَانِ وَتَعَامِلُوا
كَالْجَنَاسِ.
٢٣. كَلَامٌ لَيْنٌ وَظُلْمٌ بَيْنِّ.
٢٤. الْوَحْدَةُ خَيْرٌ مِنْ جَلِيسِ
السُّوءِ.
٢٥. هَذَا الْمِيتُ لَا يَسَاوِي هَذَا
الْبَكَاءَ.
٢٦. وَرَبُّمَا صَحَّتِ الْأَجْسَامُ
بِالْعَلَلِ.
٢٧. إِنَّ مِنَ الْبَيَانِ لَسْحَراً.
٢٨. بَعْضُ الشَّرِّ أَهُونُ مِنْ بَعْضٍ.
٢٩. رَبُّ عَيْنٍ أَنْثُمٌ مِنْ لِسَانٍ.
٣٠. Some friends are closer than real brothers.
٣١. Some fulfilled wishes cause a person's downfall.
٣٢. Some gladness easily turns into sadness.
٣٣. Some hearts have eyes.
٣٤. Some kinds of liberation are much worse than slavery.
٣٥. Someone must have drawn all this milk.
٣٦. Some silence is more eloquent than words.
٣٧. Some swords inspire fear, even when they remain in their sheaths.
٣٨. Some words are mightier than hard blows.
٣٩. Some words vanish in thin air.
٤٠. The sovereignty of knowledge will always prevail.
٤١. [It] sticks harder than ticks.
٤٢. Support your brother, even if only with words.
٤٣. Swifter than an arrow.
٤٤. رَبُّ أَخٍ لَمْ تَلِدْهُ وَالْدَّةُ.
٤٥. رَبُّ أُمْنِيَّةٍ جَلَبَتْ مَنِيَّةً.
٤٦. رَبُّ فَرَحَةٍ تَعُودُ تَرَحَّةً.
(الترح: الحزن)
٤٧. فِي بَعْضِ الْقُلُوبِ عَيْنُونَ.
٤٨. رَبُّ عِنْقٍ شَرٌّ مِنْ رِقٍ.
٤٩. لَكُلَّ دَرَّ حَالَّ.
٥٠. رَبُّ سُكُوتٍ أَبْلَغُ مِنْ كَلَامٍ.
٥١. قَدْ يُتُوقَّى السِّيفُ وَهُوَ
مُغْمَدٌ.
٥٢. رَبُّ قُولٍ أَشَدُّ مِنْ صَوْلٍ.
(الصَّوْلُ: الْهَجُومُ)
٥٣. وَبَعْضُ الْقَوْلِ يَذْهَبُ فِي
الرِّيَاحِ.
٥٤. لَيْسَ لِسْلَطَانِ الْعِلْمِ ذَوَالَ.
٥٥. أَعْلَقَ مِنْ قُرَادَ.
٥٦. أَعْنَنَ أَخَاكَ وَلَوْ بِالصَّوْتِ.
٥٧. أَمْرَقُ مِنْ سَهْمٍ.

1. Take part or depart.
2. [A confusion like the one that happens, when] tamed and untamed camels get together.
3. Tamer than a dog.
4. Tamer than the doves of Mekka.
5. There are four kinds of men: A man who knows and knows that he knows; he is a learned man, follow him. A man who knows, but doesn't know that he knows; he is asleep, awake him. A man who doesn't know and knows that he doesn't know; he needs guidance, teach him. And a man who doesn't know and doesn't know that he doesn't know; he is a fool, renounce him.
6. There are two kinds of days: days you win, and days you lose.
7. There is always enough room on this earth for free, honorable people.

١. إن لم يكن وفاق فراق.
٢. اختلط المرعى بالهمل.
(المرعى: الإبل التي لها راع؛ الهمل: الإبل التي لا راع لها)
٣. ألف من كلب.
٤. ألف من حمام مكة.
٥. الرجال اربعة: رجل يدرى ويدري انه يدرى بذلك عالم فاتبعوه. ورجل يدرى ولا يدرى انه يدرى بذلك نائم فأيقظوه. ورجل لا يدرى ويدري انه لا يدرى بذلك مسترشد فعلموه. ورجل لا يدرى ولا يدرى انه لا يدرى بذلك جاهم فارضوه.
٦. الدهر يومان، يوم لك ويوم عليك.
يوم لنا ويوم علينا.
٧. وفي الأرض للحر الكريم منادح.
(المنادحة، المندتح:
السعنة، الفسحة)

8. There is always more room behind you.
9. There is an eavesdropper for every word uttered loosely.
10. There is a proper reward for every deed, and a fitting reply to every question.
11. There is a reply for every speech.
12. There is enough room in your chest for all your secrets.
13. There is no good deed like helping a man in need.
14. They defeated the high-minded, but the base-minded defeated them.
15. Things always go back to where they came from.
16. Things always become clearer, after the dust settles down.
17. Things you store in pots will be consumed, but things you keep in your heart will stay forever.
18. Thinner than the shadow of a lance.
19. This cake is made from that dough.
٨. وراءك أوسع لك.
٩. لكل ساقطة لاقطة.
١٠. لكل عمل ثواب وكل كلام جواب.
١١. لكل خطاب جواب.
١٢. صدرك أوسع لسررك.
١٣. أفضل المعروف إغاثة الملهوف.
١٤. يغلبن الكرام ويغلبهم اللئام.
١٥. عاد الأمر إلى نصابه.
١٦. سوف ترى اذا انجلى الغبار.
١٧. يفنى ما في القدور ويبقى ما في الصدور.
١٨. أضيق من ظل الرمح.
١٩. هذا الكعك من ذاك العجين.

20. This will take place when the crow's feathers turn white.

٢٠. لا يكون ذلك حتى يشيب الغراب.

21. A thorny bush doesn't yield any grapes.

٢١. لا يُثمر الشوك العنب.

22. Those who believe in the goodness of others are liable to get in trouble.

٢٢. حُسْنُ الظن ورطة.

23. Those who have no followers also have no opinion.

٢٢. لا رأي لمن لا يطاع.

24. Throw the stone back at those who threw it at you.

٢٤. رُدَّ الحجر من حيث جاءك.

25. Time is the best of all mentors.

٢٥. نِعَمَ المؤدبُ الدهرُ.

26. Tinier than a mosquito's brain.

٢٦. أصغرُ من مُخ البعوض.

27. A tit for tat, and he who starts will be the villain.

٢٧. هذه بتلك والبادئ أظلم.

28. Today's egg is better than tomorrow's chicken.

٢٨. بيضةُ اليوم خير من دجاجة الغد.

29. Today's work shouldn't be delayed until tomorrow.

٢٩. لا تؤخرْ عمل اليوم لغدٍ.

30. Toil for me and I'll toil for you.

٣٠. إكْدح لي أكْدح لك.

31. To hurry is to err.

٣١. الخطأ زاد العَجُول.

32. [Because this day is almost over,] tomorrow, for the hopeful, is close at hand.

٢٢. فإنْ يكُ صدرُ هذا اليوم ولّى فإنَّ غداً لنازره قريب.

33. Too many helmsmen wrecked the ship.

٢٢. من كثرة الملاحين غرقت السفينة.

34. Too much jesting breeds ill will.

٢٤. المزاح لَقاحُ الضغائن.

35. To their mothers people run, whenever they are hurting.

٢٥. إلى أمه يلهف اللهفان.

36. To panic in face of a calamity, always makes it twice as bad.

٢٦. الجزعُ عند المصيبة مُصيبة أخرى.

37. To save myself, I lost my nose.

٢٧. شفيتُ نفسِي وجدتُ أنفِي.

38. To scare away a vicious dog, another vicious dog is needed.

٢٨. يُعدُّ لكلب السوء كلب يعادله.

39. Truth is always covered by bubbles.

٢٩. تحت الرغوة الصريح.

40. Truth gets on people's nerves.

٤٠. الحقُّ مَغْضبَةٌ.

41. Truth glitters and falsehood falters.

٤١. الحقُّ أبلجُ وباطلُ لَجلجُ.

42. Truth is the best than can be said.

٤٢. الحقُّ خيرٌ ما يُقال.

43. A truth that displeases is better than a lie that pleases.

٤٢. حقٌّ يضرُّ خيرٌ من باطل يسرٌ.

44. Turning back is always safer.

٤٤. العودُ أَحْمَدٌ.

45. Two blades will never fit in a single sheath.

٤٥. لا يُجمِعُ سيفانٌ في غِمدٍ.

U

1. Upholding the truth is a noble deed.

١. نُصْرَةُ الْحَقِّ شَرْفٌ.

2. Useful possessions are the best possessions.

٢. خَيْرُ الْمَالِ مَا نَفْعُ.
خَيْرُ مَالِكَ مَا تَنْفَعُ.

W

1. War is a monster.

١. الْحَرْبُ غَشُومٌ.

2. War is deception.

٢. الْحَرْبُ خُدُوعٌ.

3. War seems harmless to the onlookers.

٢. مَا أَهْوَنَ الْحَرْبَ عَلَى النَّاظَارَةِ.

4. A watchful dog is better than a sleepy lion.

٤. كَلْبٌ عَسْرٌ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَسْدٍ
رَبْضِيٍّ.
(عَسْرٌ: طافَ بِاللَّيلِ بِغَرضِ
الحراسة)

5. We become blind and deaf, when it comes to what we love.

٥. حُكْمُ الشَّيْءِ يُعمِي وَيُحِقِّمُ.

6. We can only give what we have received.

٦. وَإِنَّمَا نُعْطِيَ الَّذِي أُعْطِيْنَا.

7. We drink tonight, and tomorrow we fight.

٧. الْيَوْمَ خَمْرٌ وَغَدَأً أَمْرٌ.

8. The well lasts longer than the bucket and the rope.

٨. الْبَئْرُ أَبْقَى مِنَ الرِّشَاءِ.
(الرِّشَاءُ: جَبَ الدَّلْوَ)

9. What good are swords, if we don't have men!

٩. وَمَا أَنْفَعُ السَّيْفِ بِلَا رِجَالٍ.

10. What is good for the liver, is bad for the spleen.

١٠. مَا يَنْفَعُ الْكَبِدَ يَضُرُّ
الْطَّحالَ.

11. What can a marksman do, when his bow suddenly ruptures.

١١. مَا حِيلَةُ الرَّامِيِّ إِذَا انْقَطَعَ
الْوَتَرُ.

12. What will happen, will happen on time.

١٢. كُلَّ أَتٍ قَرِيبٌ.

13. When a camel is about to die, it goes in circles around the well.

١٣. إِذَا جَاءَ أَجْلُ الْبَعِيرِ حَامٌ
حَوْلَ الْبَئْرِ.

14. When a jackass went to get itself a pair of horns, it came back without its ears.

١٤. ذَهَبَ الْحَمَارُ يَطْلَبُ قَرْنَيْنِ
فَعَادَ مَصْلُومًا الْأَذْنَيْنِ.
(صلَمَ الشَّيْءُ: قَطْعَهُ مِنْ
أَصْلِهِ)

15. When a learned man errs, many men will follow and err.

١٥. إِذَا ذَلَّ الْعَالَمُ ذَلَّ بِزَلَّتِهِ
عَالَمٌ.

16. When a man's predestined time arrives, his eyesight will be restricted.

١٦. إِذَا جَاءَ الْقَدْرُ غَشِيَ الْبَصَرُ.

17. When an inquisitive man was thrown into Hell, he asked why the firewood was not dry enough.

١٧. دَخَلَ فُخُولِيَّ النَّارَ فَقَالَ
الْحَطَبُ رَطِبٌ.

18. When a rip becomes too wide, it is too late to patch it up.

١٨. إِتَّسَعَ الْخَرْقُ عَلَى الرَّاتِقِ.

١٩. When facing a common disaster, people forget their hate and anger.
٢٠. When God wants to destroy an ant, He gives it wings and lets it fly.
٢١. When he is straight, he is like a knife, and when he bends, he becomes a sickle.
٢٢. [I taught him how to hold the bow, and] when his hands became steady, he made me his first mark.
٢٣. When in love, advice has no effect.
٢٤. When it faces an isolated man, a wolf suddenly becomes a lion.
٢٥. When it is time for us to go, the cosmic space will close on us.
٢٦. [This will happen] when the lizard and the whale become friends.
٢٧. [This will happen] when the lizard goes to drink.
٢٨. 29. When the wind blows, it favors no ship.
١٩. عند الشدائـد تذهب الأحـقادـ.
٢٠. إذا أراد الله هلاـكـ نـمـلةـ اـنـبـتـ لـهـ جـنـاحـينـ.
٢١. إن استـوى فـسـكـينـ وإن اـعـوجـ فـمـنـجـلـ.
٢٢. [أـعـلـمـ الرـمـاـيـةـ كـلـ يـوـمـ] فـلـمـاـ اـسـتـدـ سـاعـدـ رـمـانـيـ .
(إـسـتـدـ: اـسـتـقـامـ)
٢٣. ليس في الحب مشورة.
٢٤. الذئـبـ خـالـيـاـ أـسـدـ.
٢٥. إذا حـانـ القـضـاءـ ضـاقـ الفـضـاءـ.
٢٦. حتى يـؤـلـفـ بـيـنـ الضـبـ والـنـونـ.
(الـضـبـ: "الـسـحلـيـةـ"
الـنـونـ: الـحـوتـ)
٢٧. حتى يـرـدـ الضـبـ.
(وـرـدـ المـاءـ: صـارـ إـلـيـهـ)
الـضـبـ: "الـسـحلـيـةـ")
٢٨. تـجـريـ الـرـياـحـ بـمـاـ لـاـ تـشـتـهـيـ السـفـنـ.
٢٩. When there is no other cure, searing must be done.
٣٠. When they bump against one another, the hornless ram will always lose.
٣١. When you betray, you become a prey.
٣٢. When you hear poorly, you answer poorly.
٣٣. When you plant a thornbush, don't ever expect grapes.
٣٤. When you renounce all your desires, you'll gain your total freedom.
٣٥. When on foot, all rides are welcome.
٣٦. When you talk much, you err much.
٣٧. When you wish, wish a lot.
٣٨. While his tongue was praying, his hand was slaying.
٣٩. While man is contemplating the universe, God is conducting its course.
٤٠. Whom you can't conquer, try to cajole.
٢٩. آخر الداء الكي.
٣٠. عند النطاح يُغلب الكبش
الأجمـ.
(الأـجـ: ليس له قـرونـ)
٣١. من خـانـ هـانـ.
٣٢. أـسـاءـ سـمعـ فـأسـاءـ إـجـابةـ.
٣٣. من يـزـرعـ الشـوكـ لـاـ يـحـصـدـ بـهـ العـنـباءـ.
٣٤. من تـرـكـ الشـهـوـاتـ عـاشـ حـرـماـ.
٣٥. من يـمـشـ يـرـضـ بـمـاـ رـكـبـ.
٣٦. أـفـرـطـ فـأـسـقطـ.
٣٧. إذا تـمـنـيـتـ فـاسـتكـثـرـ.
٣٨. فـمـ يـسـبـحـ وـيـدـ تـذـبـحـ.
٣٩. الإنسان بالتفكير والله بالتدبر.
٤٠. إذا لم تـغـلـبـ فـاخـلـبـ.

41. Why do you keep blowing, when there is no fire!
42. Why would I want a sun that doesn't make me warm!
43. Wisdom is the purpose of every believer.
44. A wise man will never win, if he does battle with a fool.
45. The wisest of men appreciate the failings of other men.
46. Within the walls of his home, every grown-up becomes a child.
47. A wolf in sheep's clothing.
48. A woman's wisdom is her beauty, and a man's beauty is his wisdom.
49. Women are snares designed by the Devil.
50. [His] words are like honey, but [his] deeds are like daggers.
51. The worst disasters are the ones that make us laugh.

٤١. نَفَخْتَ فِي غَيْرِ ضَرَمْ.
٤٢. مَا لَيْ بِشَمْسٍ لَا تَدْقِنِي.
٤٣. الْحِكْمَةُ ضَالَّةُ الْمُؤْمِنِ.
٤٤. لَا يُنْتَصِفُ حَلِيمٌ مِّنْ جَهُولٍ.
٤٥. أَعْقَلُ النَّاسَ أَعْذَرُهُمْ لِلنَّاسِ.
٤٦. كُلَّ آمْرَىٰ فِي بَيْتِهِ صَبِيٰ.
٤٧. تَحْتَ جِلْدِ الْخَانِ قَلْبُ الْأَذْوَبِ.
(أَذْوَبٌ: جَمِيعُ ذَئْبَ)
٤٨. عَقْلُ الْمَرْأَةِ فِي جَمَالِهَا وَجَمَالُ الرَّجُلِ فِي عَقْلِهِ.
٤٩. إِنَّ النِّسَاءَ حَبَائِلُ الشَّيْطَانِ.
٥٠. كَلَامٌ كَالْعَسْلِ وَفَعْلٌ كَالْأَسْلِ.
(الْأَسْلُ: الرَّماحُ، السَّيْوِفُ)
٥١. شُرُّ الشَّدَائِدِ مَا يُضْحِكُ.

Y

١. النَّشِيدُ مَعَ الْمَسْرَّةِ .
٢. تَحْفَظُ أَخَاكَ الْأَكَّ مِنْ نَفْسِهِ .
٣. إِنَّكَ تَضْرِبُ فِي حَدِيدٍ بَارِدٍ .
٤. إِنَّكَ لَا تَجْنِي مِنَ الشَّوْكِ الْعِنْبِ .
٥. مَا اسْتَرَرَ مِنْ قَادِ الْجَمَلِ .
٦. قَبْلِ الرِّمَاءِ ثُمَّ الْكَنَائِنِ .
(الْكَنَائِنُ جَمْعُ كَنَانَةٍ، وَهِيَ الْجَعْبَةُ الَّتِي تَحْفَظُ فِيهَا السَّهَامَ)
٧. مَا لَا يَصْلَحُ تَرْكَهُ أَصْلَحٌ .
٨. خُذْ مَا طَفَّ لَكَ .
(طَفَّ مِنْهُ: دَنَا مِنْهُ)
٩. لَا تُعْلَمُ الْيَتَيْمُ الْبُكَاءُ .
١٠. إِيَّاكَ أَعْنِي وَاسْمِعِي يَا جَارَةً .
١١. تُكْثِرُ الْحَزَّ وَتُخْطِئُ الْفَصْلِ .
(الْحَزَّ: الْقِطْعَ)

12. You may cut your own nose,
while you're trying to protect
it.

١٢. رَبُّ حَامِ لَأْنَفِهِ وَهُوَ جَادِعٌ.

13. You owe your brother, exactly
what he does owe you.

١٣. لَأْخِيكَ عَلَيْكَ مُثْلُ الذِّي
لَكَ عَلَيْهِ.

14. You reached greener pastures,
now you should dismount!

١٤. أَعْشَبْتَ فَانْزَلْ.

15. You reap what you sow.

١٥. كَمَا تَزْرَعْ تَحْصَدْ.

16. Your hand is a part of you,
even if it is lame.

١٦. يَدُكَ مِنْكَ وَإِنْ كَانَ شَلَاءً.

17. Your informer and your enemy
are one and the same.

١٧. الرَّاوِيَةُ أَحَدُ الشَّاتِمِينَ.

18. Your nose is a part of you, even
if it has been disfigured.

١٨. مِنْكَ أَنْفُكَ وَإِنْ كَانَ أَجْدَعَ.

19. Your true brother is the one
who tells you the truth.

١٩. أَخُوكَ مِنْ صَدَقَكَ.

20. You would really know how it
tastes, only if you would
choke on it.

٢٠. أَعْلَمُ بِهَا مِنْ غَصَّ بِهَا.
(غَصَّ بِالطَّعَامِ: تَوْقُفُ
الطَّعَامِ فِي حَلْقِهِ وَمَنْعَهُ مِنِ
(التنفس)

من أقوال العرب وتشبيهاتهم الأدبية

OLD ARABIC SAYINGS,
SIMILES, AND METAPHORS

A Bilingual Edition
English / Arabic

Translated from the Arabic by
SAAD ELKHADEM

A compilation of some of the wisest proverbs and wittiest metaphors used by the Arabs over the years, and passed down from generation to generation.

Saad Elkhadem (Sa'd al-Khâdim) teaches German and comparative literature at the University of New Brunswick; he is the editor of *The International Fiction Review* and the general editor of *Authoritative Studies in World Literature*. Dr. Elkhadem has written a considerable number of novels, plays, and short stories, edited numerous scholarly books, and translated several works of literature.

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